



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1940.

#### FOUR WILDLIFE REFUGES ESTABLISHED; LAND ADDED TO 11 OTHER SANCTUARIES

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today announced that the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved the establishment of four national wildlife refuges and the purchase of lands to be added to 11 existing refuges administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 10 States.

The Commission approved the expenditure of \$279,880 for the purchase of 69,183 acres of land for the benefit of wildlife. Approval was also given for the leasing of 19,313 acres for three refuges in three States.

The new refuges approved by the Commission are the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, near Waupun, Wisconsin; the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, near Newburyport, Massachusetts; the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, near Swanton, Vermont; and the Lac Qui Parle National Wildlife Refuge, near Ortonville, Minnesota.

The largest acquisitions were authorized in Georgia where 32,255 acres are to be added to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge near Waycross, Georgia, Secretary Ickes said. In Wisconsin the purchase of 12,569 acres will form the nucleus of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. The Parker River Refuge in Massachusetts comprises 159 acres that will be the nucleus around which the area will be developed. The initial purchase at the Missisquoi unit in Vermont is 1,656 acres. The Lac Qui Parle unit, a 7,732-acre area in Minnesota, will be leased.

Other Fish and Wildlife Service refuges where lands will be added are as follows:

Sacramento Refuge, Willows, California, 9,100; Delta Refuge, Pilotown, Louisiana, 1,244; Monomoy Refuge, Chatham, Massachusetts, 2,624; Seney Refuge, Germfask, Michigan, 599; Tamarac Refuge, Rochert, Minnesota, 1,159; and Mud Lake Refuge, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, 5,849.

Boulder Canyon Refuge, Overton, Nevada, 12; Brigantine Refuge, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 822; Hart Mountain Refuge, Lakeview, Oregon, 94; and Little Pend Oreille Refuge, Colville, Washington, 1,041.

The lands approved for lease, in addition to the Lac Qui Parle area, are as follows: Seney Refuge, Germfask, Michigan, 9,621 acres, and Bitter Lake Refuge, Roswell, New Mexico, 1,960.

Members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are: Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, chairman; Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard; Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones; Senator Key Pittman, of Nevada; Senator Charles L. McNary, of Oregon; Representative James Wolfenden, of Pennsylvania; Representative John J. Cochran, of Missouri; and Rudolph Dieffenbach, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, secretary.

The Commission operates in accordance with the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, which authorized appropriations for establishment of a Federal system of inviolate sanctuaries for migratory birds. Appropriations under this Act, together with funds from Duck Stamp sales and other sources, are used in the acquisition of lands.

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Three new areas were added to the Federal wildlife refuge system, bringing the total to 263 with an acreage of 13,635,365. For the fourth consecutive year increases were noted all over the country in wildlife on the refuges. For the sixth consecutive year general increases on the continent were seen in waterfowl populations as a result of the program of restricting hunting and providing refuge areas.

The 46 game-management agents and 19 deputy agents engaged in enforcing laws protecting wildlife, singly or in cooperation with State officers and deputy game wardens, obtained evidence in 2,939 cases of game-law violations during the year. Prosecuted in State and Federal courts, these cases resulted in 2,773 convictions.

The program for aiding the States in wildlife restoration became more extensive and more effective, Dr. Gabrielson said. A total of 237 projects begun by the States with Federal aid, involving \$2,082,735, represented a great increase over the work during the preceding year, first under the program, when 58 projects were begun at a cost of \$343,932. This program provides for Federal payment of 75 percent of the cost of projects carried on by the States with Federal approval.

#### Reports Results of Research

Fundamentally a research agency, the Biological Survey carried on extensive investigations during the year. Outstanding events in the research work summarized in the report included the following:

Laboratories constructed at the Patuxent Research Refuge, in Maryland, a 3,000-acre area of wooded and cultivated lands, made extensive research possible on wildlife problems peculiar to Eastern States.

A 10-year research on the American elk was completed.

Between 500 and 1,000 Pacific white-tailed deer, a subspecies previously supposed to be near extirpation, were discovered and studied.

A list with data of the 1,323 mammal type specimens in the Biological Survey collection was completed for publication by the United States National Museum.

Numbered bands, it was reported, were placed on 428,185 birds of 478 species in connection with migration and other studies. Since 1920 a total of 3,712,327 birds had been banded.

Ecological research during the past two years resulted in a technical report on alluvial marshes and swamps of Louisiana.

On the Sabine and Lacassine refuges, in Louisiana, experimental burning of marshes indicated that fire is an important tool in managing areas for geese. An estimated 500,000 geese were attracted to these refuges after the burning.

Gratifying results were obtained from an experimental project set up at the Bombay Hook Refuge, in Delaware, for demonstrating control of salt-marsh mosquitoes with minimum injury to waterfowl habitat.

In bobwhite investigations, the nutritive value and palatability of several native quail foods were studied and it was developed that common salt is a valuable aid in combating cannibalism among both growing and adult birds.

#### Control Work Improved

Research work during the year developed more effective and selective methods for use in the control of predatory animals and injurious rodents. "Marked progress" was also reported in determining essential facts regarding damage by certain birds to crops and in working out improved methods and practices for preventing the damage.

In helping to safeguard the Nation's wool and meat supply by protecting livestock, control workers in organized efforts took 116,805 predatory animals during the year. The Biological Survey also supervised the treatment of 12,174,125 acres infested by injurious rodents and 198,902 premises where rat control was needed.

Reports Funds Available

To finance the work of the wildlife agency during the year, a total of \$7,392,524 was available from regular and emergency appropriations, Dr. Gabrielson reported. Of this sum, \$3,928,691 was carried in an appropriation act for regular activities; \$1,111,325 was realized from the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamps, the so-called "duck stamps;" \$820,798 was allocated from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1939 for water-conservation and wildlife-restoration work and \$34,216 for related administrative expenses; \$1,293,644 was made available for expenditure in connection with work performed by the C.C.C. on national wildlife refuges; and \$203,850 was allocated by the Public Works Administration for the construction of buildings and other improvements at the Fur Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and on the Patuxent (Md.) Research Refuge.